# VRS Community Partners Conversations

**Meeting Summary**

**Meeting Date:** 9/6/2023

# Intros and updates: introduced CP team:

1. Welcome to our Community Partner Conversations. If you are a first-time attendee, this gathering is intended to be a monthly office hour between us, your Community Partnership Team and you, our Community Partners.
	* We generally meet on the first Wednesday of the month from 8:30-9:30. We try to have a topic for discussion and then leave a lot of time for any questions you may have.
	* We record the mini discussion topic and will post the link on our CP site. We do not record the Q&A time.
	* If you want to find information on past CP Conversations or the upcoming registration links go to the VR News button and choose the CP Conversations Tab
2. Meet the Community Partnerships Team: Anne, Jess, Claire and Sara
	* CP Staff – each of us will introduce ourselves and answer the fun fact question: Favorite thing about fall.
	* Partners, in the chat – write your name, position/focus, organization AND your fun fact: Favorite thing about fall.
3. CP Team Updates:

## We are expanding our Pre-ETS Community of Practices across the state!

* The Metro CoP has been meeting since 2021. They meet on the third Thursday of the month from 9:00-10:30. On September 21st we will be hosting a marketing event, complete the form in the chat to sign up to present.
* The first North area CoP will be on Tuesday October 17th from 8:30-10:00
* The first Southern are CoP will be on Tuesday October 24th from 9:00-10:30
* If you want the invite to any of the CoP Meetings email Sara and let her know which areas distribution list, you want to be added to.

## VR Community Learning Connections will host a training on Unconscious Bias on September 19, 2023, from 10:00 – 11:30

* This training series invites VRS, SSB, and Community Partner staff to join together in shared experience to strengthen skills and grow stronger together in serving Minnesotans with disabilities.
* **Learning Objectives:**
	+ Learn what unconscious bias is
	+ Learn why bias exists and the neuroscience behind it
	+ Understand the effects of bias
	+ Know how to identify potential area of bias
	+ Learn how to reduce you bias
* **Presenter:** Karly Turner, DEED Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Coordinator

# Discussion Topic: Meet the Youth Team

Pre-ETS Youth Specialists: Lauren Srdar, Megan Mulkey, Ryan Lais, Cassie Campbell

Their role is to work connect VR staff with Community Partners, get more referrals to underutilized partners. Meeting with partners and getting the word out to local teams.

Shared PPT on Best Practices for providing Pre-ETS, especially in schools:

* understanding timing and flow of referrals,
* communication with VRS,
* warm intros visit with VR staff to schools,
* confirm meetings prior to going out to school,
* attending IEPs and team meetings,
* send reports and updates to school and parents along with VR staff,
* ROIs for school staff for communication purposes,
* keep CoP google page up to date,
* inform students/families/VR staff about other services you may provide as a partner agency,
* **if you have a relationship with a school/staff** – connect with VR staff assigned to school,
* VR staff will do orientation of services and informed choice,
* We can work together to build that relationship between agency and school through VRS,
* Reach out to Youth Specialist team to get connected to VR staff and build relationships,
* Reach out with questions about programming (joint effort with CP team),
* Reach out with info on a class/group programming for advertising/marketing,
* No wrong door between Youth Specialists/CP team, we work together,
* MPS Partnership Agreement – reach out to Lauren to get connected,
* Megan can help with Pathful Explore or eTrac registration.

# Q&A: No questions

# Next Meeting:

Our next meeting is October 4, 2023. Josh Dean will present on Small Business Services.

Here is the Registration Link for October <https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItdumqrzsiGxpswY48PZSxJtkRxTcHoAI>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Feel free to contact us at any time.

Janeen Oien: Janeen.oien@state.mn.us

Jess Outhwaite: Jessica.outhwaite@state.mn.us

Anne Paulson: Anne.paulson@state.mn.us

Sara Sundeen: Sara.sundeen@state.mn.us

Claire Courtney: Claire.courtney@state.mn.us

Brad Westerlund: brad.westerlund@state.mn.us

Meghan Hanson: meghan.hanson@state.mn.us

Here is the Community Partners webpage: <https://mn.gov/deed/job-seekers/disabilities/partners/>